Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT REVIEW Applying Skills I**

**A. READING A STORY**

**Directions**: Read the passage below carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.

In the square bedroom with the big window Mama and Papa were lolling back on their pillows handing each other things from the wide black tray on the small table with crossed legs. They were smiling and they smiled even more when the little boy, with the feeling of sleep still in his skin and hair, came in and walked up to the bed. Leaning against it, his bare toes wriggling in the white fur rug, he went on eating peanuts which he took from his pajama pocket. He was four years old.

"Here's my baby," said Mama. "Lift him up, will you?"

He went limp as a rag for Papa to take him under the arms and swing him up over a broad, tough chest. He sank between his parents like a bear cub in a warm litter, and lay there comfortably. He took another peanut between his teeth, cracked the shell, picked out the nut whole and ate it.

"Running around without his slippers again," said Mama. "His feet are like icicles."

"He crunches like a horse," said Papa. "Eating peanuts before breakfast will ruin his stomach. Where did he get them?"

"You brought them yesterday," said Mama, with exact memory, "in a grisly little cellophane sack. I have asked you dozens of times not to bring him things to eat. Put him out, will you? He's spilling shells all over me."

Almost at once the little boy found himself on the floor again. He moved around to Mama's side of the bed and leaned confidingly near her and began another peanut. As he chewed he gazed solemnly in her eyes.

"Bright-looking specimen, isn't he?" asked Papa, stretching his long legs and reaching for his bathrobe. "I suppose you'll say it's my fault he's dumb as an ox.

"He's my baby, my only baby," said Mama richly, hugging him, "and he's a dear lamb." His neck and shoulders were quite boneless in her firm embrace. He stopped chewing long enough to receive a kiss on his crumby chin. "He's sweet as clover," said Mama. The baby went on chewing.

"Look at him staring like an owl," said Papa.

Mama said, "He's an angel and I'll never get used to having him."

"We'd be better off if we never had had him," said Papa. He was walking about the room and his back was turned when he said that. There was silence for a moment. The little boy stopped eating, and stared deeply at his Mama. She was looking at the back of Papa's head, and her eyes were almost black. "You're going to say that just once too often," she told him in a low voice. "I hate you when you say that."

Papa said, "You spoil him to death. You never correct him for anything. And you don't take care of him. You let him run around eating peanuts before breakfast."

"You gave him the peanuts, remember that," said Mama. She sat up and hugged her only baby once more. He nuzzled softly in the pit of her arm. "Run along, my darling," she told him in her gentlest voice, smiling at him straight in the eyes. "Run along," she said, her arms falling away from him. "Get your breakfast."

FROM "The Downward Path to Wisdom" by Katherine Anne Porter

**B. ANALYZING A STORY**

**Directions:** For each question, place the letter of the best answer in the space provided. Each correct response is worth one point

1. \_\_\_: This excerpt is most likely from
2. the exposition of the story
3. the climax of the story
4. the resolution of the story
5. none of the above
6. \_\_\_: The primary conflict established is
7. the parents’ external conflict with each other
8. an external conflict between the parents and the society in which they live in
9. the mother’s internal conflict over whether she has properly cared for the boy
10. an external conflict between the boy and his father
11. \_\_\_: The characterization of Mama and Papa is provided mainly through
12. the little boy’s thoughts about them
13. their speech
14. their thoughts
15. their appearance
16. \_\_\_: Imagery is used in paragraph 3 to appeal to the reader’s sense of
17. smell
18. taste
19. sight and touch
20. hearing
21. \_\_\_: The mood of the excerpt might be described as
22. tender
23. humorous
24. tense
25. upbeat
26. \_\_\_: The point of view from which this excerpt is told is with each other
27. first person
28. third person omniscient
29. third person limited
30. none of the above
31. \_\_\_: The title “The Downward Path to Wisdom” probably foreshadows
32. the painful inner growth of a central character
33. the family’s plummeting finances
34. the family’s move downtown
35. the family’s mountain climbing experience
36. \_\_\_: The author’s attitude toward Mama and Papa seems to be
37. humorous
38. disapproving
39. admiring
40. affectionate

**C. ANALYZYING LANGUAGE AND DEVELOPING VOCABULARY**

**Directions**: In the spaces provided, mark each true statement **T** and each false statement **F**. Each correct response is worth one point

1. \_\_\_: Judging from the context, *lolling* (paragraph 1) probably refers to a sharp, quick action.
2. \_\_\_: The use of the word *grisly* (paragraph 6) helps the reader to understand Mama’s mood.
3. \_\_\_: Paragraphs 4 and 5 contain figurative language.
4. \_\_\_: Judging from the context, the meaning of *litter* in paragraph 3 is “wastepaper.”
5. \_\_\_: In paragraph 3, *broad* and *tough* are examples of homonyms.
6. **WRITING ABOUT A STORY**

Which character is portrayed most sympathetically in this excerpt? How can you tell? Find evidence to support in this excerpt to support your opinion. This section is worth 11 points.

**Directions**: Using evidence you have found in the excerpt, write a one-paragraph response perhaps beginning with a statement such as “*The author sympathizes with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is clear because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.*

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1. **SUMMARIZING A PLOT**

**Directions**: In *one* paragraph, summarize the plot of “Poison.” Be sure to organize your paragraph in the correct sequence in which events occurred. Also, make sure to explain causes and their effects clearly. This section is worth 11 points.

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1. **RESPONDING TO A STORY**

**Directions**: Write a response that describes your reaction to any two of the following stories: “The Lady and the Tiger,” “The Most Dangerous Game,” or “A Rose for Emily.” Explain which of these stories you liked better. Follow this with details that compare the two stories and support your opinion. Responses should address such elements such as the story’s plot, setting, characterization, or use of language. This section is worth 15 points.

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